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## **CSD** *News Release*

**May 14, 2002**

### **NATION'S TOP FOOD SAFETY OFFICIAL TO VISIT MIAMI**

Under Secretary in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Dr. Elsa Murano, will make a two-day visit to Miami, May 21-22, to promote USDA's Spanish-language Meat and Poultry Hotline.

Dr. Murano, who is the nation's top food safety official, oversees the policies and programs of the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. In addition to promoting the Hotline, she will use her visit to raise consumer awareness of food safety issues.

The Miami-Dade Cooperative Extension Service, a division of the Consumer Services Department, is helping to organize Dr. Murano's visit and will be involved in the campaign to promote the Hotline. The Cooperative Extension Service conducts food safety education in communities across Miami-Dade County as part of its Family and Consumer Sciences program.

The Spanish-language Meat and Poultry Hotline is a toll-free telephone service that helps consumers prevent food-borne illnesses by answering their questions about safe storage, handling, and preparation of meat and poultry products. Spanish-speaking food safety specialists are available Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to answer consumers' questions. Recorded messages in Spanish are available around the clock. The toll-free number is 800-535-4555.

Dr. Murano's visit to Miami-Dade County is part of the USDA's nationwide campaign to promote food safety education and to raise consumer awareness about the seriousness of food-borne illnesses. Last year, the Department's Meat and Poultry Hotline launched a marketing campaign targeting Latino and Hispanic communities in Miami-Dade, San Diego, California and Newark, New Jersey.

A native of Cuba, Under Secretary Murano holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences from Florida International University in Miami, a Master of Science degree in Anaerobic Microbiology and a Ph.D. in Food Science and Technology, both from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Va.

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** Dr. Murano will be available for interviews in Spanish or English. To arrange an interview with her, please call Sandra Canales, Miami-Dade County Cooperative Extension Service at (305) 888-5010 or Matt Baun, USDA, Washington, at (202) 720-9113. Film footage on combating food-borne illnesses is also available.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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*The Miami Dade Consumer Services Department is an agency of Miami-Dade County government that protects consumers through complaint mediation, business regulation, and consumer education. The Department operates the Consumer Hotline (305) 375-3677, a central telephone number for consumer complaints and information.*